



# MARINE MAMMAL COMMISSION

9 September 2013

Jennifer Jessup  
Departmental Paperwork Clearance Officer  
Department of Commerce  
Room 6616  
14<sup>th</sup> and Constitution Avenue, Northwest  
Washington, DC 20230

Dear Ms. Jessup:

The Marine Mammal Commission (the MMC) has reviewed the Department of Commerce's notice (78 Fed. Reg. 54866) regarding information collection requirements under the Marine Mammal Protection Act (the MMPA), specifically under sections 101(a)(5)(A) and (d). The National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) requires certain types of information to make the necessary findings and issue authorizations under the statute and implementing regulations. The relevant entities are then required to submit information needed to track their compliance with specific monitoring and reporting measures and to ensure protection of marine mammals.

Collection of the information is necessary to ensure the protection and conservation of marine mammal populations, allow NMFS to make the required findings for issuing the appropriate authorizations, and ensure that the goals of the MMPA are met. Therefore, the MMC supports the Department's request to collect the required information.

Please contact me if you need additional information to support the Department's request.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Rebecca J. Lent". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Rebecca J. Lent, Ph.D.  
Executive Director

Cc. Mr. P. Michael Payne